

12 result of said predetermined manipulation process  
13 by said image manipulating means, to the customer  
14 for a consideration.

1 3. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 2, wherein said image obtaining apparatus  
3 is previously installed at a predetermined position.

1 4. An image data dispensing system comprising:  
2 a transmitter, adapted to be lent to a customer,  
3 for transmitting a signal including identification  
4 (ID) information of the customer;

5 an image obtaining apparatus, previously  
6 installed in predetermined position and having a  
7 receiver for receiving said signal from said  
8 transmitter, for obtaining image data in response  
9 to the receipt of said signal from said transmitter  
10 by said receiver;

11 an image data storing apparatus for temporarily  
12 storing said image data obtained by said image  
13 obtaining apparatus;

14 a communication network, communicably  
15 interconnecting said image obtaining apparatus and  
16 said image data storing apparatus, for communicating  
17 said image data and said ID information from said  
18 image obtaining apparatus to said image data storing

19 apparatus;  
20 image manipulating means for manipulating said  
21 image data, which is stored in said image data storing  
22 means, by a predetermined manipulation process; and  
23 image data dispensing means for dispensing the  
24 resulting image data, which is the image data as the  
25 result of said predetermined manipulation process  
26 by said image manipulating means, to the customer  
27 corresponding to said ID information, for a  
28 consideration.

1 5. An image data dispensing system comprising:  
2 an image obtaining apparatus for obtaining image  
3 data that includes ID information of a customer in  
4 the form of an image;  
5 image manipulating means for manipulating said  
6 image data obtained by said image obtaining  
7 apparatus;  
8 ID information extracting means for extracting  
9 said ID information from said image data obtained  
10 by said image obtaining means;  
11 a database for holding personal information of  
12 the individual customer in correspondence with said  
13 ID information;  
14 customer specifying means for obtaining said  
15 personal information of the customer by retrieving  
16 said database using said ID information, which has

17 been extracted by said ID information extracting  
18 means, as a key, and for specifying the customer based  
19 on said obtained personal information;

20 notifying means for notifying an accessing  
21 technique to the customer who has been specified by  
22 said customer specifying means; and

23 image data dispensing means for dispensing the  
24 resulting image data, which is the image data as the  
25 result of said predetermined manipulation process  
26 by said image manipulating means, to the customer,  
27 who has been notified of said accessing technique  
28 by said notifying means, for a consideration.

1 6. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 1, wherein:

3 said image data dispensing means includes image  
4 writing means for writing the resulting image data,  
5 which is the image data as the result of said  
6 predetermined manipulation process by said image  
7 manipulating means, into a portable medium, and

8 said portable medium, into which the resulting  
9 image data is written by said image writing means,  
10 is purchased by the customer, so that the resulting  
11 image data written therein is dispensed to the  
12 customer.

1 7. An image data dispensing system according

2 to claim 2, wherein:

3       said image data dispensing means includes image  
4 writing means for writing the resulting image data,  
5 which is the image data as the result of said  
6 predetermined manipulation process by said image  
7 manipulating means, into a portable medium, and  
8       said portable medium, into which the resulting  
9 image data is written by said image writing means,  
10 is purchased by the customer, so that the resulting  
11 image data written therein is dispensed to the  
12 customer.

1       8. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 4, wherein:

3       said image data dispensing means includes image  
4 writing means for writing the resulting image data,  
5 which is the image data as the result of said  
6 predetermined manipulation process by said image  
7 manipulating means, into a portable medium, and  
8       said portable medium, into which the resulting  
9 image data is written by said image writing means,  
10 is purchased by the customer, so that the resulting  
11 image data written therein is dispensed to the  
12 customer.

1       9. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 5, wherein:

3           said image data dispensing means includes image  
4   writing means for writing the resulting image data,  
5   which is the image data as the result of said  
6   predetermined manipulation process by said image  
7   manipulating means, into a portable medium, and  
8           said portable medium, into which the resulting  
9   image data is written by said image writing means,  
10   is purchased by the customer, so that the resulting  
11   image data written therein is dispensed to the  
12   customer.

1           10. An image data dispensing system according  
2   to claim 1, wherein:

3           said image data dispensing means includes:  
4           an image server for storing the resulting  
5   image data, which is the image data as the result  
6   of said predetermined manipulation process by said  
7   image manipulating means; and  
8           a communication network communicably  
9   interconnecting said image server and a customer  
10   terminal, and

11          the resulting image data stored in said image  
12   server is dispensed to said customer terminal via  
13   said communication network.

1           11. An image data dispensing system according  
2   to claim 2, wherein:

3           said image data dispensing means includes:  
4           an image server for storing the resulting  
5 image data, which is the image data as the result  
6 of said predetermined manipulation process by said  
7 image manipulating means; and  
8           a communication network communicably  
9 interconnecting said image server and a customer  
10 terminal, and  
11          the resulting image data stored in said image  
12 server is dispensed to said customer terminal via  
13 said communication network.

1           12. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 4, wherein:

3           said image data dispensing means includes:  
4           an image server for storing the resulting  
5 image data, which is the image data as the result  
6 of said predetermined manipulation process by said  
7 image manipulating means; and  
8           a communication network communicably  
9 interconnecting said image server and a customer  
10 terminal, and  
11          the resulting image data stored in said image  
12 server is dispensed to said customer terminal via  
13 said communication network.

1           13. An image data dispensing system according

2 to claim 5, wherein:

3 said image data dispensing means includes:

4 an image server for storing the resulting  
5 image data, which is the image data as the result  
6 of said predetermined manipulation process by said  
7 image manipulating means; and

8 a communication network communicably  
9 interconnecting said image server and a customer  
10 terminal, and

11 the resulting image data stored in said image  
12 server is dispensed to said customer terminal via  
13 said communication network.

1 14. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 10, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said  
6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 for a limited period depending upon an amount of charge  
8 said customer has paid for the consideration.

1 15. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 11, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said

6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 for a limited period depending upon an amount of charge  
8 said customer has paid for the consideration.

1 16. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 12, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said  
6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 for a limited period depending upon an amount of charge  
8 said customer has paid for the consideration.

1 17. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 13, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said  
6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 for a limited period depending upon an amount of charge  
8 said customer has paid for the consideration.

1 18. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 10, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said



6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 under condition that a predetermined amount of charge  
8 has been paid for the consideration.

1 19. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 11, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said  
6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 under condition that a predetermined amount of charge  
8 has been paid for the consideration.

1 20. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 12, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said  
6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 under condition that a predetermined amount of charge  
8 has been paid for the consideration.

1 21. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 13, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes access managing means for managing  
4 access attempts of the customer from said customer  
5 terminal to the resulting image data stored in said

6 image server, such that the accessing is permitted  
7 under condition that a predetermined amount of charge  
8 has been paid for the consideration.

1 22. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 18, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes reference image producing means for  
4 producing a reference image from the resulting image  
5 data stored in said image server, said reference image  
6 being offered to the customer without consideration.

1 23. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 19, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes reference image producing means for  
4 producing a reference image from the resulting image  
5 data stored in said image server, said reference image  
6 being offered to the customer without consideration.

1 24. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 20, wherein said image data dispensing means  
3 further includes reference image producing means for  
4 producing a reference image from the resulting image  
5 data stored in said image server, said reference image  
6 being offered to the customer without consideration.

1 25. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 21, wherein said image data dispensing means

3 further includes reference image producing means for  
4 producing a reference image from the resulting image  
5 data stored in said image server, said reference image  
6 being offered to the customer without consideration.

1 26. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 10, further comprising:

3 consideration collection managing means for  
4 managing the collection of a consideration to be paid  
5 for the resulting image data; and

6 image deleting means for deleting the resulting  
7 image data stored in said image server upon  
8 recognition by said consideration collection  
9 managing means that the consideration for the image  
10 data has not yet been collected even after elapse  
11 of a predetermined time period.

1 27. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 11, further comprising:

3 consideration collection managing means for  
4 managing the collection of a consideration to be paid  
5 for the resulting image data; and

6 image deleting means for deleting the resulting  
7 image data stored in said image server upon  
8 recognition by said consideration collection  
9 managing means that the consideration for the image  
10 data has not yet been collected even after elapse

11 of a predetermined time period.

1 28. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 12, further comprising:

3 consideration collection managing means for  
4 managing the collection of a consideration to be paid  
5 for the resulting image data; and

6 image deleting means for deleting the resulting  
7 image data stored in said image server upon  
8 recognition by said consideration collection  
9 managing means that the consideration for the image  
10 data has not yet been collected even after elapse  
11 of a predetermined time period.

1 29. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 13, further comprising:

3 consideration collection managing means for  
4 managing the collection of a consideration to be paid  
5 for the resulting image data; and

6 image deleting means for deleting the resulting  
7 image data stored in said image server upon  
8 recognition by said consideration collection  
9 managing means that the consideration for the image  
10 data has not yet been collected even after elapse  
11 of a predetermined time period.

1 30. An image data dispensing system according

2 to claim 1, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores added information in a predetermined address  
4 of said image data.

1 31. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 2, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores added information in a predetermined address  
4 of said image data.

1 32. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 4, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores added information in a predetermined address  
4 of said image data.

1 33. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 5, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores added information in a predetermined address  
4 of said image data.

1 34. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 30, further comprising an image viewer for  
3 reading out said added data, which is stored by said  
4 image manipulating means, and showing said added data  
5 on its screen.

1 35. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 31, further comprising an image viewer for

3 reading out said added data, which is stored by said  
4 image manipulating means, and showing said added data  
5 on its screen.

1 36. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 32, further comprising an image viewer for  
3 reading out said added data, which is stored by said  
4 image manipulating means, and showing said added data  
5 on its screen.

1 37. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 33, further comprising an image viewer for  
3 reading out said added data, which is stored by said  
4 image manipulating means, and showing said added data  
5 on its screen.

1 38. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 34, wherein said added information is an  
3 advertisement relevant to where said image data has  
4 been obtained.

1 39. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 35, wherein said added information is an  
3 advertisement relevant to where said image data has  
4 been obtained.

1 40. An image data dispensing system according

2 to claim 36, wherein said added information is an  
3 advertisement relevant to where said image data has  
4 been obtained.

1 41. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 37, wherein said added information is an  
3 advertisement relevant to where said image data has  
4 been obtained.

1 42. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 38, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores said added information together with another  
4 piece of information that designates a display  
5 available period during which said image viewer is  
6 adapted to show said added information.

1 43. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 39, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores said added information together with another  
4 piece of information that designates a display  
5 available period during which said image viewer is  
6 adapted to show said added information.

1 44. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 40, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores said added information together with another  
4 piece of information that designates a display

5 available period during which said image viewer is  
6 adapted to show said added information.

1 45. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 41, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 stores said added information together with another  
4 piece of information that designates a display  
5 available period during which said image viewer is  
6 adapted to show said added information.

1 46. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 38, wherein said image manipulating means,  
3 if any other image data has been previously stored  
4 where the object resulting image data is to be stored,  
5 updates added information stored in such previous  
6 image data.

1 47. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 39, wherein said image manipulating means,  
3 if any other image data has been previously stored  
4 where the object resulting image data is to be stored,  
5 updates added information stored in such previous  
6 image data.

1 48. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 40, wherein said image manipulating means,  
3 if any other image data has been previously stored



4 where the object resulting image data is to be stored,  
5 updates added information stored in such previous  
6 image data.

1 49. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 41, wherein said image manipulating means,  
3 if any other image data has been previously stored  
4 where the object resulting image data is to be stored,  
5 updates added information stored in such previous  
6 image data.

1 50. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 30, wherein said added information is where  
3 said image data has been obtained.

1 51. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 31, wherein said added information is where  
3 said image data has been obtained.

1 52. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 32, wherein said added information is where  
3 said image data has been obtained.

1 53. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 33, wherein said added information is where  
3 said image data has been obtained.

1           54. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 30, wherein said added information is when,  
3 or the date and time, said image data was obtained.

1           55. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 31, wherein said added information is when,  
3 or the date and time, said image data was obtained.

1           56. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 32, wherein said added information is when,  
3 or the date and time, said image data was obtained.

1           57. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 33, wherein said added information is when,  
3 or the date and time, said image data was obtained.

1           58. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 30, wherein said added information is the  
3 customer's personal data relevant to said image data.

1           59. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 31, wherein said added information is the  
3 customer's personal data relevant to said image data.

1           60. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 32, wherein said added information is the  
3 customer's personal data relevant to said image data.

1           61. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 33, wherein said added information is the  
3 customer's personal data relevant to said image data.

1           62. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 3, further comprising positional information  
3 storing means for storing positional information of  
4 the predetermined position where said image obtaining  
5 apparatus is previously installed,

6           said image manipulating means reading out the  
7 positional information, which is stored in said  
8 positional information storing means, corresponding  
9 to said image obtaining apparatus by which said image  
10 data has been obtained, and storing the readout  
11 positional information in a predetermined address  
12 of said image data, as added information.

1           63. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 4, further comprising positional information  
3 storing means for storing positional information of  
4 the predetermined position where said image obtaining  
5 apparatus is previously installed,

6           said image manipulating means reading out the  
7 positional information, which is stored in said  
8 positional information storing means, corresponding  
9 to said image obtaining apparatus by which said image  
10 data has been obtained, and storing the readout

11 positional information in a predetermined address  
12 of said image data, as added information.

1 64. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 1, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 performs image processing upon said image data.

1 65. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 2, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 performs image processing upon said image data.

1 66. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 4, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 performs image processing upon said image data.

1 67. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 5, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 performs image processing upon said image data.

1 68. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 3, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 includes:

4 color temperature information storing means for  
5 storing color temperature information at the  
6 predetermined position where said image obtaining  
7 apparatus is installed, by date and time, weather,  
8 and season;

9           available light color temperature determining  
10 means for determining color temperature of available  
11 light for said image data, in view of where said image  
12 obtaining apparatus is installed and when said image  
13 data is obtained, based on said color temperature  
14 information stored in said color temperature  
15 information storing means; and  
16           white balance correcting means for correcting  
17 white balance of the image data depending on the  
18 available light color temperature, which is  
19 determined by said available light color temperature  
20 determining means.

1           69. An image data dispensing system according  
2 to claim 4, wherein said image manipulating means  
3 includes:

4           color temperature information storing means for  
5 storing color temperature information at the  
6 predetermined position where said image obtaining  
7 apparatus is installed, by date and time, weather,  
8 and season;

9           available light color temperature determining  
10 means for determining color temperature of available  
11 light for said image data, in view of where said image  
12 obtaining apparatus is installed and when said image  
13 data is obtained, based on said color temperature  
14 information stored in said color temperature

15 information storing means; and  
16 white balance correcting means for correcting  
17 white balance of the image data depending on the  
18 available light color temperature, which is  
19 determined by said available light color temperature  
20 determining means.